

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 14-17, 20, 22, 24 and 27-40 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant is canceling claims 1, 2, 14-17, 20, 22, 24, 27-29, and 36-40 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 30-35 have been amended. No new claims have been added. As a result claims 30-35 are pending for examination with claims 30-35 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claims 20, 22, 24, 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Skidmore (U.S. Patent No. 3,985,348) in view of Surface (U.S. Patent No. 5,123,828) or alternatively in further view of Bilhorn (U.S. Patent No. 4,976,904).

Without acceding to the propriety of the Examiner's positions, Applicant has canceled these claims to allow a patent to issue with claims the Examiner has indicated as allowable.

Accordingly, these rejections are moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's finding that the claims 36-40 are allowed and that claims 30-35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 30-35 have been so rewritten, such that these claims should be in condition for allowance. Claims 36-40 have been canceled to delete any substantially duplicate claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.


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If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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Docket No. M1029.70001US00
Date: September 2, 2003
x09/04/03x